

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

*Rule 1.121
2/10/02* 21. (Amended) A method of operating an atmospheric pressure plasma source comprising the steps of:

coupling an r.f. power supply through a coaxial transmission line to a suitably designed tuning network;

B1 coupling said network to a small plasma chamber having suitable electrodes located within;

coupling a gas manifold that provides a suitable mixture of oxygen and a noble gas to said small plasma chamber; and,

utilizing the portion of the plasma that spills out of the small chamber for localized sterilization purposes, including cavities, small access holes, and other hard-to-reach places.

Please add new claim 2 as follows:

*R1.121
B2-52* (New) The method according to Claim ²/₁ including the further step of providing a magnetic field in the plasma region for increasing the ionization ratio.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended with increased specificity since directed to certain specialized applications.

Also, a dependent claim 2 has been added and proffered for the Examiner's consideration and finding antecedent support at least at page 2, lines 24-26.